



## CPMR External Cooperation Working Group

Wednesday 14 September 2016 (10.00 – 13.00), Brussels

### ATTENDEES:

*Camila DE EPALZA AZQUETA, European Union Policy Officer, Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU (Lead Region)*

*Remedios BORDIU, EU Adviser, Principado de Asturias*

*Graziana GALATI, Emilia-Romagna Region - EU Delegation*

*Andrea GONZÁLEZ GONZÁLEZ, Cantabria Brussels Office*

*Antonella LIBERATORE, Regione Emilia-Romagna (by teleconference – left the meeting early)*

*María Eugenia ROMANO MARTÍNEZ, Andalucía Brussels Office*

*Mireia SOLÉ I LLORT, EU Policy Adviser, Government of Catalonia - Delegation to the EU*

*Maruxa CARDAMA, Advisor to CPMR External Cooperation Group*

*Davide STRANGIS, Executive Secretary, CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (by teleconference)*

*Claire STREET, Policy Assistant, CPMR (by teleconference)*

#### **Apologies:**

*Yannick PONT, Regional Coordinator of Breton actors for international solidarity, Brittany Region*

*Javier SÁNCHEZ CANO, Lead for planning, monitoring and evaluation, Direction General for Development Cooperation, Government of Catalonia*

## 1. Welcome and Tour de Table

Camila de Epalza on behalf of the Basque Delegation and Maruxa Cardama, CPMR Consultant in charge of the CPMR External Cooperation Group, welcomed participants to the meeting. Participants introduced themselves.

## 2. Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

(LINK to [minutes](#))

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2016 were approved

## 3. Seminar “Integrated Territorial Partnerships and the SDGs: how to leave no one behind”, 14/06/2016

(LINK to [report](#))

Participants reflected positively on this event, held on the occasion of the European Development Days. It was found that the standard of the presentations was remarkably high and that there were very interesting experiences from outside EU borders, notably with Sousse and Brazil.

The conclusions of the seminar were circulated among relevant actors and the European Commission shared very positive feedback about the quality and specificity of the discussions on the day.

Camila De Epalza informed that as a follow up of the seminar, the Basque Country is exploring with likeminded actors such as CPMR, PLATFORMA and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) the potential for establishing a Global Alliance of Regional and Local Authorities on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the opportunity with some potential linkages and synergies of such Global Alliance with the existing Delivery Mechanism of PLATFORMA’s Strategic Partnership (Connect).

It was emphasized that, to date, a possible Global Alliance is an idea at the stage of brainstorming and conceptualisation by the Basque Country. Camila indicated that the Basque Country will be sharing more detailed information as developments unfold and will be paying particular attention to guaranteeing open and transparent discussions about this idea with likeminded regions and organisations.

Maruxa Cardama confirmed that, at this stage, the CPMR Secretariat is monitoring the idea of such Global Alliance, and the Basque Country is regularly sharing updates. So far, the CPMR Secretariat understands that the idea of such Global Alliance falls within the natural remit of the Basque Country’s delegation in Brussels and appreciates being considered as a potential partner. As it is already a tradition in the organisation, the CPMR Secretariat wishes to ensure space for initiatives led individually by its member regions; while being guided by the fundamental question of identifying the distinct mission and added value for the collective membership of the CPMR that could be accomplished by such Global Alliance.

### **ACTION:**

**Basque Country to provide information on the idea of a Global Alliance. Members are welcomed to share feedback. The CPMR Secretariat will continue monitoring the evolution**

## 4. CPMR Response to the Public Consultation on "UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Revising the European consensus on development"

([LINK to CPMR response](#) / [LINK to the PLATFORMA Response](#))

Answering the consultation was a challenge for two reasons.

1. The timing was short with a deadline of 18 August in the middle of the holiday period! The CPMR Secretariat did not receive inputs / feedback to the draft response prepared by Maruxa and in collaboration with Camila but given the relevance of the topic for the External Cooperation Working Group, it was decided to go ahead with a CPMR submission.
2. The questionnaire itself was long and extremely detailed, not allowing for short answers.

The CPMR response includes some guiding principles referring to previous lobbying action (policy position adopted by the General Assembly in November 2015). It also echoes some replies taken from PLATFORMA's comprehensive response. The main messages include:

- Reinforcing and emphasising integrated territorial development and territorial cohesion; while reiterating the points focused on decentralisation and capacity building highlighted in PLATFORMA's submission;
- How to provide territorial relevance to the SDGs, while respecting their universal and integrated nature;
- Policy coherence as a cross-cutting concern and hopefully "the new normal."

We are curious to see what the European Commission (EC) will make of all the responses, and whether they will publish the findings of the consultation. The CPMR Secretariat will monitor developments and watch out for the next steps by the EC towards the elaboration of a new European consensus on Development Policy.

## 5. CPMR's Activities within PLATFORMA's Strategic Partnership

([LINK](#) to Summary of CPMR activities under the Grant Agreement)

### 5.1. Update on the internal discussions within PLATFORMA towards a Delivery Mechanism: "CONNECT"

([LINK](#) to relevant documents on the Delivery Mechanism in the Dropbox folder)

PLATFORMA has been consulting its members regarding a Delivery Mechanism for the Strategic Partnership, known as "CONNECT". The initial proposal was for the Delivery Mechanism to take the form of a website for "matchmaking" expertise from a local or regional government in Europe or beyond, to Regional and Local Authorities (LRAs) in partner countries in need of support or expertise. The Roadmap indicates that initial focus will be on the following countries: Cambodia, Colombia, Ghana and Uganda. These countries have been selected on account of their involvement in localising the SDGs.

Camila De Epalza (Basque Delegation) has been following this issue on behalf of the CPMR. We replied to a survey in April and Camila met with PLATFORMA last week.

To resume, the CPMR's position on the Delivery Mechanism's functioning and aims remains as follows:

- Make the Delivery Mechanism more strategic and concrete; beyond a “matchmaking” website.
- Put in place geographically-based pilot projects;
- Enhance the value of representations/delegations of EU regions abroad;
- Promote more innovative and specialised cooperation;
- Ensure a more active governance by setting up a Steering Committee. The CPMR would be interested in becoming a member of this;
- Ensure a balanced participation between local authorities and regional authorities.

Indeed, after the June seminar “How to leave no-one behind” (see above), in which the Basque Country/CPMR worked closely with the European Commission, UNDP and PLATFORMA, there has been a change of vision. The European Commission agrees with the CPMR that it is necessary to introduce a more strategic approach.

For the moment there are few practical elements and the envelope initially assigned to the Delivery Mechanism within the Strategic Partnership has very limited funding.

The CPMR External Cooperation Group can help with input to support the CPMR's approach to “CONNECT”.

Members can use the existing template (see link below) to give examples of approaches on the ground that could be replicated. They do not necessarily have to be in the given countries (Cambodia, Colombia, Ghana and Uganda). This should help to take PLATFORMA in a more practical direction.

**ACTION:**

**Members to complete template with their project examples ([LINK to Template](#)).**

**CPMR Secretariat/Basque Country to liaise with PLATFORMA and EC and monitor developments.**

**5.2. Update on the activities of the CPMR's Inter-Mediterranean Commission for implementing the package of activity dedicated to the Southern Neighbourhood**

*by Davide Strangis, Executive Secretary of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission*

Davide Strangis gave an update in three parts:

1. General overview of the Training Module for the delivery of public services with a territorial approach, within the Southern Neighbourhood activities of the Strategic Partnership.
2. Details concerning the draft Terms of Reference for the selection of an expert to support the implementation.
3. Details on the workshop organised in Sousse, 22-23 September 2016 to kick off the implementation.

## **1. General Overview of the Training Module**

Under PLATFORMA's Strategic Partnership, the CPMR in agreement with its Inter-Mediterranean Commission and External Cooperation Working Group member regions has accepted to produce a training module for public service delivery with a territorial approach focusing on the EU's Southern neighbourhood.

The CPMR-IMC will be supported by an external expert, and some human resources will be allocated from the CPMR and IMC secretariats.

### **Objective:**

With an integrated territorial development perspective:

- To foster peer-to-peer learning and capacity building through direct collaboration between North and South;
- To provide authorities in Morocco and Tunisia with new skills and quality information to be used in parallel to their decentralisation processes;
- To improve the capacity of administration to conceive policies and public services on the ground or to municipalities;
- To emphasise the regional and local dimension and participatory democracy.

### **Deliverables:**

Manual for the delivery of these services.

A training session in 2017 (2nd semester).

Timeline: approx. 1 year

## **2. Draft Terms of Reference for the selection of an expert to support implementation**

([LINK](#) to draft ToRs)

**ACTION: CPMR Members can consult and comment on the draft document until 28 September. NB. Please do not circulate the draft at this stage.**

The draft ToRs aim at setting the perimeter for the expert who will work on the elaboration of manual and the delivery of the training session in close coordination with the CPMR-IMC and the External Cooperation Working Group secretariats.

The call will be launched on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and the deadline for application will be 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016. Members will be invited to disseminate the call to relevant known experts. The CPMR Secretariat will keep members informed of the developments in the selection process at all stages, while respecting the confidentiality of applications.

### **Geographical focus**

The training module is designed for the whole Mediterranean basin but with specific focus on Moroccan and Tunisian subnational authorities.

### Thematic Priorities

Two thematic priorities are chosen linked to integrated territorial development: Climate, environment & energy; Socio-economic development promotion and spatial planning. The training can also address other issues depending on Southern regions' needs, e.g. Migration management. The expert should identify the best thematic focus.

There is an important link with the SDGs and we need to also seek synergies with key actors such as the UNDP, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), etc.

### Manual

As a first step, the expert should analyse the different documents already produced, take stock of the Sousse events (September 2016) and consult with IMC members.

The manual will be in French for the Maghreb target. The draft ToRs give hints and ideas for the structure and main content. We do not want another manual and report with a collection of experiences, but to select only relevant practices in public service provision with cooperation scalability and potential for replicability.

The manual will serve for the training session in 2017 and be disseminated for wider use in future training actions.

### Training

The expert will run the training session and be in charge of reporting on its outcomes. We are seeking different opportunities to organise the session in the framework of another event: e.g. in one of the Moroccan or Tunisian regions, on the occasion of a European event (European Development Days or ARLEM) or even back-to-back with an IMC event.

### Practical issues

Fees for consulting work amount to EUR 9.000 -10.000 incl. VAT.

Travel expenses are paid using PLATFORMA funding and CPMR co-funding.

### Calendar

The timeline is as follows:

- Preparation of the ToRs in September by Davide and Maruxa in consultation with IMC and External Cooperation Group members, as well as with PLATFORMA's secretariat.
- Call open 1st October until 31st October.
- Evaluation by CPMR in consultation with Platforma Secretariat, External Cooperation Group Leader and IMC Presidency.
- Activities to start in November.
- First consultations with members in December towards the elaboration of the draft Manual in Spring 2017
- In 2017, final version of the manual and delivery of the training session.

### Eligibility

We would prefer an individual more than an organisation but the call is open to NGOs, organisations, etc. Regions could also be eligible if they are allowed to have external contracts. Experts should have a good knowledge of global North and South. We have set selection criteria (evaluation grid).

Applicants should send a CV and cover letter together with an economic proposal and proposals for the delivery of the training.

### **3. Workshop, Sousse, 22 September 2016**

(LINK to General Programme ([EN](#), [FR](#)) & CPMR IMC Workshop ([EN](#), [FR](#)))

The UCLG Mediterranean Commission is organising a series of workshops on different themes in Sousse on 22-23 September 2016.

During this event, the CPMR-IMC is organising a workshop on Territorial Integrated Development in association with Platforma and with the involvement of ARLEM, UNDP and other Mediterranean actors.

The aim is to detect the needs of Southern authorities and capitalise on existing practices, as well as to contribute to the activities and future debates in the framework of the Forum of LRAs for the Mediterranean to be held in Morocco in December.

This workshop constitutes an inception/brainstorming session to serve as key input towards the elaboration of the draft manual.

### **5.3. Discussion on the draft terms of reference for the elaboration of two Research Studies**

Under the PLATFORMA Strategic Partnership, the second package of activity the CPMR has accepted in agreement with its External Cooperation Working Group member regions consists of two research studies.

These will be more like think-tank documents setting out project recommendations and guidelines rather than academic studies, and with the aim to put in place collaborations between universities, think-tanks etc. from different regions or territories to reinforce and open new specialisations. The topic for the studies are strictly in line with the action plan of the CPMR External Cooperation Working Group, as adopted by members back in time.

**First Study: “Shaping a new generation of decentralised cooperation for enhanced effectiveness and accountability”**

#### Milestones:

- End October 2016: trace the Terms of Reference for the first study
- Spring 2017: Have a first solid draft to present at the Assises of Decentralised Cooperation
- June 2017: final version

The main blocks that the CPMR Secretariat and Basque Country have so far identified for the studies are:

- New model of development cooperation
- Role of RLAs
- Effectiveness & accountability
- Indicators
- Relevance of specialisation and innovation for RLAs

It is important to receive feedback from our members, so the CPMR Secretariat proposes to conduct an on-line survey for members to complete. This will help to identify the priorities of the Regions and clarify the Terms of Reference for the study

Second study: **“Towards a new generation of public-private partnerships for decentralised cooperation”**

Milestones:

- End of 2016: An expert will be appointed.
- Spring 2017: Discussion on the study on the occasion of the Assises of Decentralised Cooperation.
- End of 1st semester 2017: 1st draft
- December 2017: final version

This second study will take as its foundation the first study, while it will have a more specific approach on this specific topic.

#### Methodology for the elaboration of the studies

The CPMR secretariat is suggesting to use the methodology of a **“drafting committee”** for this first study, given its foundational character vis-à-vis the second study and its critical link with what have been key advocacy messages of the External Cooperation Working Group over the past couple of years.

The CPMR Secretariat would like to invite the Basque Country – leader of the Working Group – to lead the drafting team. In this sense Camila indicate that a consultation needed to be clarified first to ensure transparency and consultation with Working Group members, as well as with PLATFORMA members.

Specific mechanisms would include: selection of a recognised organisation/academia/expert/etc. under a public call; organisation of consultation moments including possible brainstorming sessions, remote meetings/calls; public events.

All these milestones are currently reflected on the [internal memo](#) recapping the CPMR activities within PLATFORMA’s Strategic Partnership that has been shared with members over the past year and a half. Particular attention would be placed in ensuring for starters that the drafting team comes to a collective agreement on the specific topics and questions to be addressed in the research study.



The CPMR secretariat suggests that it could facilitate the collective discussion and agreement on study contents with online surveys (e.g. MonkeySurvey)

Should the Basque Country decline the invitation for this drafting committee methodology or the Working Group discard it, the CPMR Secretariat would then fall back to the standard approach of plain call for organisation/academia/expert/etc. open to all CPMR and PLATFORMA members and beyond – such as the one above detailed for the Southern Neighbourhood activity.

Regardless of the option finally retained for the elaboration of the first study, for the second research study the CPMR Secretariat is suggesting to follow a plain call for experts open to all CPMR and PLATFORMA members and beyond.

### Strategic profile for the Research Studies

In relation to the next Assises of Decentralised Cooperation 2017, the CPMR and Basque Government with PLATFORMA is organising a workshop about territorial dimension and to introduce the studies. The European Commission has invited to introduce the CPMR's first study under the Assises opening panel.

The European Commission has in fact decided to elevate policy coherence (and hence the subject of the CPMR-led studies) as the key topic of the Assises. The CPMR and Basque Country are in direct contact with the European Commission to identify the best way forward to cooperate and help provide content for the plenary.

#### **ACTION:**

**Basque Country to consider the invitation to lead an eventual drafting committee for the first research study and members to inform the CPMR Secretariat about their opinion.**

**Members can expect a short on-line survey to members to provide feedback on the key contents to be addressed by the first research study**

**Parallel, Maruxa and Camila will continue the elaboration of draft ToRs for the first study, which members can expect to be almost cut and pasted from the ongoing contents available in the internal memo over the past year and a half.**

## **6. AOB**

### **6.1 What CPMR members in the UN Sustainable Urban Development and Housing Conference Habitat III, Ecuador, 17-20 October 2016?**

(LINK to [Habitat III website](#))

Platforma has asked the CPMR to provide a list of its members who will be attending. The Basque Country will be represented. The Basque Government informed that Basque Government political level is attending and taking part in ORU-FOGAR and ICLEI activities.

As background information to the event, the Habitat III Conference is the third edition in a 20-year cycle. The expected outcome is the so-called New Urban Agenda. A political agreement on this was reached in New York on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in which RLAs were recognised in the text in extremis thanks to pressure from the EU and networks of regional and local governments. The agenda is not just about cities but covers integrated territorial development, territorial approaches and cohesion.

The future mandate of the UN Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, in adaptation to this New Urban Agenda and the SDGs is however uncertain. There will be an assessment of its performance next year and in 2018 a decision will be taken on its mandate forward.

**ACTION:**

**CPMR member Regions to indicate if they are attending the event in Ecuador.**

## **6.2 What activities/events CPMR members planning for the European Week of Regions and Cities, Brussels, 10-13 October?**

Participants exchanged in a quick tour de table the planned events of their respective regional offices for this annual date.

## **6.3 Date of the next meeting**

The CPMR Secretariat proposes to hold a meeting of the External Cooperation Group before the end of the year, possibly end of November. We will fix the date once we have more information on the appointment of the Southern Neighbourhood expert and on the studies.



## CPMR External Cooperation Working Group

Chaired by 

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